

Resident questions fairness of additional water charge

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by MARIAN
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PAINESVILLE - First reading was held on an ordinance to impose a \$10 monthly fee on all water bills to help pay for infrastructure improvements at the April 18 council meeting.

"As requested by city council at the work session on April 9, this legislation establishes an infrastructure improvement fee which is to be solely for improvements to the system," said City Manager Rita McMahon. "The fee is proposed at \$10 per month per customer account in the water system."

The city continues to gather information on how other communities are charging for improvements, the best way to fund improvements, setting priorities, and it is seeking public opinion.

Angelo Cimaglio of Owego Street calculated the \$10 per month would bring in about \$1.2 million per year and would not be charged fairly. Those who live alone would pay the same price as large families and businesses.

He said the idea behind the last 4 percent increase for sewer service was that it

was for infrastructure. Then it was stated the water department had saved about \$900,000 since 2007 and he wondered what happened to it.

"We don't have the money (to replace rusty waterlines (on Elm Street) but we have money for raises," Cimaglio said. "Council has got to sit down and figure out how to get this money under control, and if you have to raise water rates, which I understand you might have to, do it percentage-wise; don't do it the lazy way and say, 'I'm going to charge everybody in the world \$10 more, because that's not the way I buy it."

"People that use more of the water than others should pay for more of the upkeep than people who don't."

Councilman Andrew Flock asked what the rate increase would need to be to raise the same amount of money for infrastructure improvements.

He was told it would be about 9 percent, but Councilman Jim Fodor noted when the 4 percent increase was instituted, the water usage declined and the city received about \$800,000 less than it anticipated.

Councilwoman Lori DiNallo commented that the flat fee would guarantee a stable figure.

LEGISLATION:

- Third reading and a public hearing were held on an ordinance Amending Section 1137.12 Relating to Parking and Loading.

The legislation concerns unlicensed and inoperable vehicles and limits the size of vehicles allowed to be parked on residential properties to 7.5 feet in width, 8 feet in height and 22 feet in length.

During the hearing, Tom Matpack of Skinner Avenue said if a person had a truck that was parked out of sight he did not see the problem. He felt council was not friendly to people doing business from their homes which was not beneficial.

Council adopted the ordinance.

- Third reading was held on an ordinance Amending Section 1151.99 Relating to Remedy and Penalty of the Zoning Code.

This legislation is related to the previous ordinance and sets the penalty for infractions.

Council adopted the ordinance.

- Council also adopted an

amended ordinance which had been tabled previously which dealt with changing the storage of unlicensed and inoperable vehicles from a minor misdemeanor to a fourth-degree misdemeanor to align the city parking code with the zoning code.

- Second reading was held on an ordinance amending Chapter 167 relating to clerk of court/administrator.

The municipal court judge requested a 2 percent increase for Nick Cindric, clerk of court/administrator, as did all other employees. Per Ohio Revised Code 60 percent of the salary is paid by the municipality that hosts a municipal court and 40 percent is paid by the county. There was a move to suspend the third reading, but Councilman Andrew Flock voted 'no' so the suspension failed with only five of the six required votes.

- Ordinance amending Section 105.02 of the Code of 1998 relating to ward boundaries.

"The city is required to review the population distribution of the four wards after each census and deter-

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mine if they are substantially equal," McMahon said.

The code requires adjustments be made to the boundaries of the wards to balance the populations.

Council suspended the

three readings and adopted the ordinance.

- Second reading was held on a resolution authorizing bids for an annual street paving program.

The streets to be included

are: Jefferson between Mentor Avenue and Jackson Street and Nebraska Street. If prices allow, Munson and Gillette, south of Walnut Street would be alternates. The total budget available is

\$100,000.

Council waived the third reading and adopted the resolution.

The next regular meeting of council will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 2.